

OPERATIONS EXPAND AT MSP

MINIMIZING IMPACTS OF AIRPORT NOISE ON RESIDENTS



By Mayor Gene Winstead

WHILE THE CITY RECOGNIZES THAT IT IS a great economic benefit and convenience to have the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP) as our neighbor, we do not appreciate the increased noise the new runway brings to some of our residents.

As part of the airport’s \$3.1 billion expansion, a new north-south runway opened in October. Prior to its opening,

it was clear that operations of the new runway would affect some Bloomington properties that had previously experienced little or no aircraft noise. The City Council and the City of Bloomington successfully ensured that the homes most affected by noise would be acquired and operational measures would be implemented to reduce noise impacts on residents.

The City worked with the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) so that, as much as possible, departing aircraft will fly over undeveloped land in the Minnesota River Valley and will reach a higher altitude before turning toward Bloomington and destinations to the west. Westbound flights departing after 10:30 p.m. will also follow a departure track along the Minnesota River. Other mitigation measures included a program to noise insulate some homes east of TH77.

In 2004, MAC made substantial changes in the sound insulation program for homes in these areas. MAC proposed that it would scale back noise mitigations in the 60 - 64 dB noise areas – installing air conditioning, with homeowners paying part of the cost. This is significantly less than the mitigation proposed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement by MAC and the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) Record of Decision for the airport expansion.

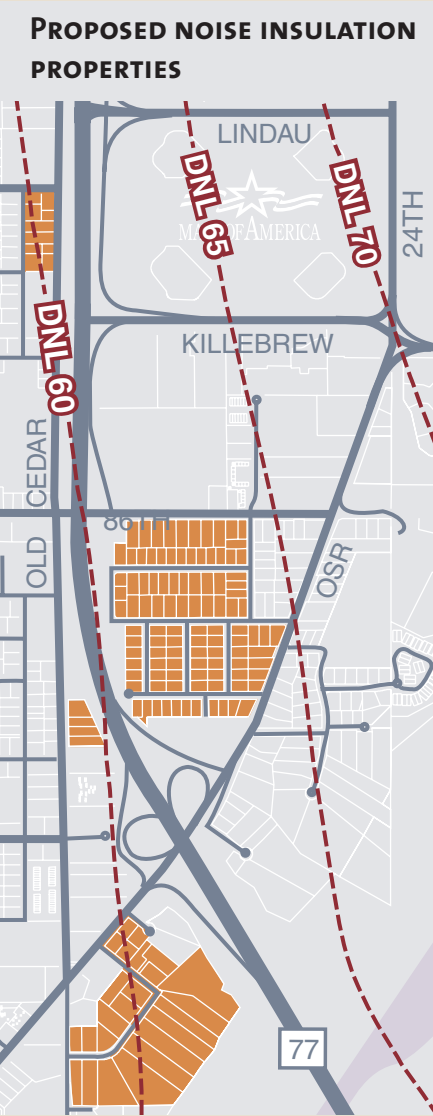
The City Council wants MAC to honor its previous commitment to sound insulate 148 Bloomington homes in the 60-64 dB noise area. The City believes that MAC is obligated to prepare a supplemental environmental

impact statement (SEIS) describing the impacts of MAC’s plan to scale back its noise mitigation. In October, the City initiated a lawsuit against MAC after it rejected a request to prepare an SEIS.

The City’s legal advisors believe that state law requires MAC to prepare a SEIS. The City also maintains that changes in MAC’s noise mitigation program will subject homeowners in the 60-64 dB noise corridor to significant adverse impacts. A study conducted this year in Richfield, Minneapolis and Eagan found that 38.5 percent of people living in areas exposed to 60-64 dB noise levels are “highly annoyed” by the noise, well exceeding the FAA’s own definition of significant adverse impact.

The City Council has worked diligently to communicate the new runway’s impact to residents through the *Bloomington Briefing*, the City Web site and correspondence from MAC. The City also worked with MAC to ensure that the new runway operations could be monitored. Residents can go online to get a detailed report of flight and noise operations at MSP, as well as file a complaint with MAC directly, which is more effective than calling the City. We will continue to advocate the protection of Bloomington’s environment by seeking insulation for homes in the 60 - 64 dB area, pressing the FAA to confine aircraft within defined departure corridors and supporting use of quieter Stage 3 aircraft.

For more information, please call MAC’s Noise Complaint and Information Line at 612-726-9411 or visit www.macnoise.com.



The properties highlighted in orange are within the 60 - 64 dB range. The City seeks to have MAC noise insulate them.

BLOOMINGTON IS A GREAT PLACE TO WORK

TOP 10 COMPANIES RANKED BY REVENUE



RANK	COMPANY	ANNUAL REVENUES <i>In millions</i>	EMPLOYEES*
1	HealthPartners, Inc.	\$3,506.0	2,138
2	Toro Company	1,399.3	977
3	Donaldson Company, Inc.	1,218.3	1,069
4	Ceridian Corporation	1,192.7	429
5	Schwans Consumer North America	1,042.6	140
6	Holiday Stationstores, Inc.	1,000.0	60
7	Holiday Companies	932.6	100
8	GMAC - RFC	791.4	800
9	Apogee Enterprises, Inc.	771.8	35
10	Jostens, Inc.	756.0	239

Information is based on 2004 data compiled by Dun and Bradstreet.
*Employment numbers reflect those based in the Bloomington offices.

The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer disk to Communications Administrator Diann Kirby, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8818; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; E-MAIL dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us.
Web site: www.ci.bloomington.mn.us
BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL



Mayor
Gene Winstead
952-888-1258(h)
gwinstead@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Councilmember At Large
Dave Abrams
952-833-0505(h)
dabrams@ci.bloomington.mn.us



Councilmember At Large
Amy Grady
952-884-6502 (h)
agrady@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Councilmember District I
Steve Peterson
952-884-3262(h)
speterson@ci.bloomington.mn.us



Councilmember District II
Heather Harden
952-835-5919(h)
hharden@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Councilmember District III
Steve Elkins
612-578-2103(c)
selkins@ci.bloomington.mn.us



Councilmember District IV
Vern Wilcox
952-854-1425(h)
vwilcox@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Elected officials presented for informational purposes.

NEWLY ELECTED COUNCILMEMBERS AS OF JANUARY 3, 2006:

Councilmember At Large
Karen Nordstrom 952-831-5221
Councilmember District II
Rod Axtell 952-832-5377

COUNCILMEMBERS
council@ci.bloomington.mn.us

CITY MANAGER
Mark Bernhardson 952-563-8780
citymanager@ci.bloomington.mn.us

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
Clark Arneson 952-563-8921
carneson@ci.bloomington.mn.us

The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status or status with regard to public assistance in employment or the provision of services. The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as required by Section 35.107 of the U.S. Department of Justice Regulations, and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as mandated by Section 8.53 of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Regulations. For information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; phone: 952-563-8733; TTY 952-563-8740.